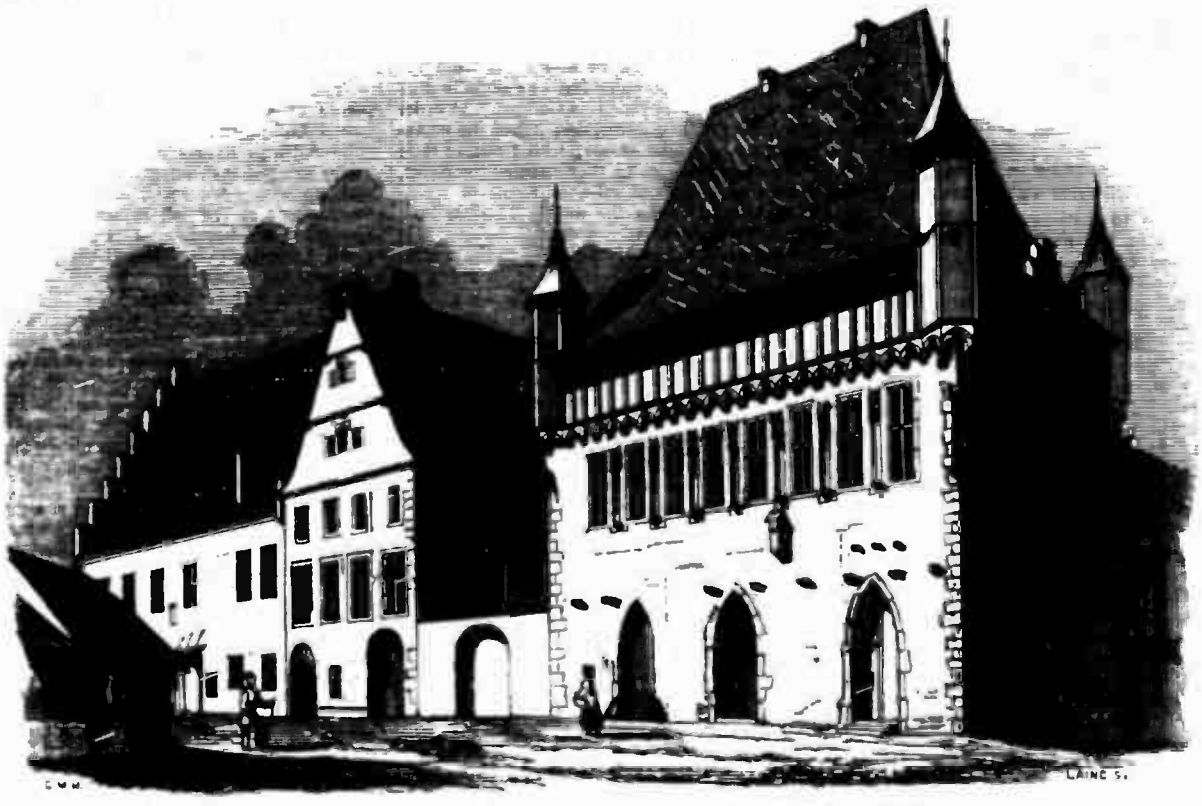

THE LINEN HOUSE, FRANKFORT-ON-THE-MAINE.

THE LINEN HOUSE, FRANKFORT-ON-THE-MAINE.

This is an extensive range of buildings opposite the south side of the cathedral, retaining more than any other of the numerous ancient buildings still existing in Frankfort the original character and appearance. From the humble employment to which they have been devoted they have escaped the hand of the modern improver, and have yet been preserved in substantial repair. The original purpose of the buildings is said to be unknown. Part has for the last century or more been used as warehouses for linen goods, which have given a name to the whole, and the other part has been occupied as the custom-house. It is now probable that some portion will be set apart for the courts of law.

The date of erection appears to be about 1450. The chief alteration which has taken place is in the most prominent of the range. The roof at first sprung from behind a parapet which is now covered, the openings of the battlement appearing as a range of small windows.

The quoins and dressings are of a bright red sandstone, which has for ages been used in Frankfort and the neighbouring towns and cities. The walls are of rubble and plastered externally. The roofs are covered with small slates.

FLUE DESTROYERS.

Respected Friend,—Thy vocation lieth amongst the bricks, mine is one of peace and retirement. For purposes of seclusion, I fixed my domicile in the tranquil suburb of Earl's Court, where I have sojourned these two summers, and nothing hath disturbed my repose, save that regularly, *twice in the month*, at about the hour of dawn, awful rumblings are heard in the adjacent dwellings, as if house-breakers were essaying to enter my chamber. At first, my household were collected around me in a state of alarm, but on summoning the aid of our neighbours, we learned that the Ramoneurs were but sweeping the chimneys of the next house.

As this process is an improvement upon the old and cruel practice of cleaning such flues by climbing boys, there can be nothing to object to in the mode, which is one of mercy; but thou, mayhap, wilt agree with me that there may be a small share of cruelty in arousing and disturbing nervous persons, who, like me, rest placidly by night, and work while it is called day.

The astounding noise of this process in small houses like mine, with thin partition walls, may be unknown to thee; therefore, I will essay to describe it. I fancy thee in my position:—half awake from profound sleep thou hearest a rumbling, as of an earthquake—thou startest—another rumble succeeds of a more proximate character — thou risest, starest wildly through the chamber—then follows a shower, as if of falling walls or rubbish—again another, and another: thou art at the window, and perhaps invokest the police—until the cause of thy disturbance be explained like unto mine.

It occurreth to me that repeated operations with rough machinery such as these (which are continually protruded up chimneys) may break away, finally, the party walls; and that the *besom* of destruction shall ultimately open crevices in the intervals called by builders "withs."

Peradventure thy influence with practical builders may persuade them to use some indestructible material to line flues, and also induce the Legislature to stop the untimely and preternatural noises complained of, which are far more distressing and appalling than the cry of "sweep! sweep!" already silenced by them.

The insect tribe of black beetles (which I believe to be one of the Egyptian plagues), have made incursions from the larders and flesh-pots of my neighbours through chinks in the fire-hearths; and their smoke hath found vent into my chambers, which betokeneth the fire whereof it is the precursor.

Should the *chosen of the people* not decree a change in the mechanism, at least they may regulate an hour for its operation less painful to

Tabitha Quiet.

TRAINING INSTITUTION, BISHOPS STORTFORD.

The recent enactments of Parliament with regard to education have raised a new class of building, partaking somewhat of the collegiate and scholastic character combined. The number of parochial schools calls forth a corresponding demand for properly-trained masters and mistresses; and these must receive their training under a certain fixed form of arrangement, and most of our dioceses are now combining, in some way, to provide for their respective wants, by erecting buildings exclusively for this purpose. The one represented in our present number is now being built for school mistresses in the diocese of Rochester, on a beautiful level and central site, at Bishops Stortford. The design is Tudor, with a frontage of 177 feet, and a depth of 153 feet, and the plan comprises three distinct divisions, ranged round an interior quadrangle; namely, the educational, the industrial, and the domestic departments. The hall or dining-room, with the large school-room, occupies the principal part, with the superintendent's residence at one extremity, and the practising schools at the other. The interior quadrangle is 92 feet by 82 feet, and surrounded by an open corridor, after the manner of the almshouses at Ewelme, in Oxfordshire. It will contain a flower-garden and a conduit, to supply the establishment with water, in the centre; and the upstairs plan comprises separate dormitories for sixty students, with rooms for the mistresses, bath-rooms, lavatories, linen and clothes stores, &c. The servants' dormitories are in the roof, over the main building. The whole is to be made fire-proof on Messrs. Fox and Barrett's principle, and means provided for ventilation, by Mr. Price, who is now engaged on Windsor Castle. The materials are red brick and Bath-stone dressings. The principal fronts are to be chequered, and the roofs will be covered with tiles stained before burning with a preparation of manganese.

The architect is Mr. Joseph Clarke. The works are contracted for by Messrs. Rigby; and the total outlay contemplated is 10,000*l*.

The lower view shows the inner quadrangle.

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